

HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in Holne Village Hall on Tuesday 5 October 2021 at 7.30pm

Present

Cllrs B Owen (Chairman), R Applegarth, J Bellamy, T Crook and M Fairman

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), County Cllr Thomas and three members of the public

The meeting was opened by Cllr Owen at 7.30pm.

051021.01	Apologies for Absence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr McLean• District Cllr Pannell• District Cllr Smerdon• County Cllr Thomas
051021.02	Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation <p>Members were reminded of their responsibility to continually update their Notice of Registerable Interests and invited to state whether they have any interest in the items to be discussed during this meeting in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct.</p> <p>Unforeseen requests for a Dispensation to be considered at this point only if there was no way a Councillor would have been aware of such before the meeting.</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest and requests for dispensation.</p>
051021.03	Open Forum <p>A question was asked about whether Highways were responding to the request for slow signs from the cattle grid to Stoke Lane. Similarly, the request for 40mph roundels has not yet been actioned. It was agreed to follow this up with Highways.</p> <p>Concerned was expressed about parking in the centre of the village particularly with the success of the shop and with the pub potentially reopening. It was agreed that this was a difficult problem to address and had been a concern for many years particularly as parked cars make it difficult for emergency and agricultural vehicles to get through. After discussion, it was agreed to write to landowners with land in the centre of the village to make initial enquiries as to whether any land might be available to provide additional parking.</p> <p>A parishioner asked about the future of the pub. It was noted that a community buy-out was currently being explored.</p>
051021.04	County & District Councillors' Reports <p>District Cllrs Pannell and Smerdon submitted a written report (attached).</p> <p>County Cllr Thomas submitted a written report (attached).</p>
051021.05	Ratification of Minutes <p>Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7 September 2021. It was agreed unanimously that they be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.</p>

051021.06	<p>Finance and Governance</p> <p>6.1 Payments for Approval</p> <p>The following payments were approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bush’s Tree and Garden Maintenance (cutting of village green – Sept) - £45 • T Crook (Website hosting renewal) - £302.18 • Holne Church Charity (annual rent of playpark) - £20 • HMRC (PAYE) - £162
051021.07	<p>Planning</p> <p>7.1 New applications/appeals</p> <p>None</p> <p>7.2 Decisions</p> <p>7.2.1 21/0039 – Tree Preservation Order: Stoke Shallows, Holne</p> <p>Application to carry out works to trees at Sky Garden which are protected by the above Tree Preservation Order</p> <p>Members noted that DNPA has granted conditional permission for the proposed works to be carried out.</p>
051021.08	<p>Highways and Footpaths</p> <p>8.1 Members received and considered the map which Cllr Crook had marked up showing where the layby on the top road should be levelled. He suggested that having the two widest areas levelled with the narrow bit in the middle built up with spoil would be the best approach, making parking for 6-8 cars. He also advised that he has put some sticks out with tape on. It was agreed that the map should be sent to the Highways Officer with a request that he could let the Council know when the works are due to take place so that a couple of the members can be present.</p> <p>8.2 Members considered the process of submitting a Definitive Map Modification Order to recognise ‘Shuttaford Track’. It was noted that evidence of uninterrupted use by the public for at least 20 years would need to be gathered together with maps/archival evidence of its use/status and notices would have to be served. Members considered the likelihood of this being processed by DCC as the PROW officer had indicated that this would be low priority. If it was recognised as a footpath or bridleway, members agreed that it would not be a maintenance priority for DCC. On reflection, therefore, members agreed that, on this occasion, there was little benefit in pursuing an application to modify the definitive map. Instead, it was agreed to form a working party to clear the track in January.</p> <p>8.3 It was noted that the leat outside Hilltop flooded last night and the water ran down the drive of Hilltop and into the garden. It was suggested that whilst the DCC contractors were carrying out the work to create the parking area behind Bakers Park, they might be able to create a lip on the drive of Hilltop to divert the water down the road rather than into the garden. It was agreed to ask the Highways Officer whether this would be possible.</p>
051021.09	<p>Parking in the Centre of the Village</p> <p>This item was covered in the open forum.</p>
051021.10	<p>Dartmoor National Park Authority consultation on proposed new byelaws</p> <p>It was agreed that Cllr Crook would read through the proposals and share his thoughts with members by email. One of the main concerns was how the byelaws are being enforced.</p>
051021.10	<p>Little Bewden</p> <p>Members received a response from Hastoe Housing Association regarding the Parish Council’s role</p>

	<p>in allocating properties. This follows the recent allocation of a vacant property without consulting with the Parish Council in order to verify local connection contrary to the Local Lettings Policy. Hastoe advised that they are only usually involved with Parish Councils on first allocation of new properties. However, if the Parish Council would like to be involved in verifying future applicants for Little Bewden, Hastoe would be very happy to consult with the Parish Council in future. Members agreed that they would like to be consulted.</p>
051021.11	<p>Playpark Cllr Bellamy advised that he has emailed Earthwrights about the rotten posts and is awaiting a response. He advised that a spreadsheet has been produced relating to the hedgecutting. He will email this to everyone. A maintenance day has been organised and will take place on 13 November, 11-1pm (weather permitting). The Halloween event is going ahead on 30 October. The pumpkins will be displayed in the Village Hall.</p>
051021.12	<p>Leats 12.1 Cllr Applegarth reported that the leats are a problem at the moment. The leat running through the churchyard is a particular problem. He advised that he is clearing it every day. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the Chairman will raise the issues with the PCC suggesting that the pipe is removed and it is left as an open leat.</p>
051021.13	<p>Clerk's or Councillors reports on matters authorised by the Council at previous meetings not otherwise on this agenda None</p>
051021.14	<p>Chairman's urgent business for action by the clerk if covered by delegated powers or for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting None</p>
051021.15	<p>Correspondence Members considered further correspondence regarding the grass seed used to reseed the bank following the installation of the Devon Air Ambulance mast. Hastoe has advised that the complaint needs to be directed to them and they will contact the complainant direct if considered to be justified.</p>
051021.16	<p>Date of Next Meeting The date of the next Parish Council meeting would be Tuesday 2 November 2021 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.</p>

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Cllr B Owen
Chairman

Waste Collection

The situation continues to be challenging, the current difficulties faced by many Councils across the country around staffing levels, particularly drivers, continue to impact on FCCs ability to collect our waste and recycling. The brown bin service remains suspended.

We will give an oral update at the respective Parish Council Meetings once we have had a chance to evaluate the situation on Monday.

Funding for Farmers and Land Managers

The Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme was launched across all AONBs and National Parks in July this year.

The programme will run from July 2021 to March 2024. It will fund projects that:

1. Support nature recovery
2. Mitigate the impacts of climate change
3. Provide opportunities for people to discover, enjoy and understand the landscape and its cultural heritage
4. Support nature-friendly, sustainable farm businesses

Please see the attached flyer for further information.

Diane Lethbridge, South Devon AONB Unit for enquiries within S D Aonb

For enquiries within DNP further information can be found in the [Guidance for Applicants to the Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme \(FiPL\)](#).

Electric Vehicle Charging

The Council has joined the Devon and Torbay Residential Chargepoint Scheme project which is a partnership with other local authorities and being led by Devon County Council to install electric vehicle charging points (EVCP) in the Council owned car parks

As a result of the Devon and Torbay Residential Chargepoint Scheme, electric charging points will be installed in the following car parks subject to the necessary surveys being carried out:

- Steamer Quay car park, Totnes
- North Street car park, Totnes
- Duncombe Park Car Park, Kingsbridge
- Lower Union Road Car Park, Kingsbridge

The Council have taken significant steps across the district to enhance the network of EV charging points available to residents and visitors alike. We have already completed or are in the process of installing the following:

- A38 Corridor Rapid Charging – Two EV charging bays have been installed in our Glanvilles Mill car park in Ivybridge as part of Highways England project to provide EV charging points along the A38 corridor. These are available for use now for rapid vehicle charging.
- Follaton House – EV points have been installed at the Offices at Follaton House, Totnes for use by staff, members and tenants.

Deletti Project – a collaborative project led by Devon County Council involving the Council and other local authorities such as East Devon, North Devon, South Somerset and Teignbridge Councils. The project secured Regional Development funding to deliver 22kW EV chargers with two outlets to serve two parking bays simultaneously for installation across a range of car parks. o Heaths Nursery car park, Totnes. Quay car park, Kingsbridge . Mayors Avenue car park, Dartmouth. Creek car park, Salcombe . Park & Ride car park, Dartmouth . Fore Street car park, Kingsbridge . Victoria Street car park, Totnes . Pavilions car park, Totnes . Poundwell Meadow car park, Modbury.

Tenders will be invited to supply, install and maintain the EV charging points based on a lease of the sites for 10 years at a nominal rent.

The Council will retain the ability to charge parking fees in the normal way for spaces which become EV charging

points.

Officers will continue to identify and work with partners to explore ways to deliver EV chargepoints in the future. **Parish and Town Councils also have the opportunity to apply for funding to install EV chargepoints on their own land should they wish to do so.**

Local Housing

SouthHams District Council at its Full Council meeting on Thursday 23rd September took the decision to declare a Housing Crisis, in response to the almost complete lack of any rented accommodation available for six months or longer that local people and those working in the area can access, and the excessive rise in house prices locally due to second home-owners and those moving in from other areas where house prices are even higher.

It's important to note that some of these actions won't apply in SHDC parishes within Dartmoor National Park, which has its own definitive housing policy. We await clarification.

It is fortunate that we have a new Housing 5 year Housing Strategy and Housing Actions in Better Lives for All, but as an expansion of them South Hams District Council should:

- 1 Lobby government through our MPs and the LGA to allow council tax to be charged on plots with planning permission after a determined period, even if they haven't been built out, so that developers are encouraged to build out sites without delay.
- 2 Lobby government through our MPs and the LGA to review the regulation of holiday accommodation, to ensure all holiday accommodation is suitably regulated and made subject to local planning policies and taxes. We should appeal to Airbnb for a 90-day rule as applicable in London and lobby MHCLG for a separate planning class for short term lets and a proper licensing system to cater for them.
- 3 Institute an immediate thorough review by the council of all holiday lettings in the District, including, but not restricted to, whether they have planning permission, whether they are paying council tax or business rates, as appropriate, for the accommodation, whether they comply with safety regulations, and to ensure they are paying appropriately for waste disposal.
- 4 Ask the JLP Team to review the thresholds and percentages of affordable housing on sites, and whether it would be appropriate at the Plan Revision to increase these so that the percentage of First Homes imposed by the government becomes in addition to the present 30% affordable homes rather than part of it.
- 5 Promote regular Landlord Forums and run a further campaign to publicise the advantages to landlords of Seamoor Lettings.
- 6 Work closely with our main Registered Providers to ensure best occupancy of stock, so that where tenants are prepared to downsize, not only are they given a priority banding to be able to access a smaller property but support to help them move available.
- 7 Use some of the affordable housing reserve to increase payments made to anyone downsizing to help make moving more attractive and affordable.
- 8 Use any Section 106 affordable housing contributions as soon as possible to help fund developments anywhere in the District where the terms of the Section 106 Agreement permit this.
- 9 Campaign for changes to the Broad Market Area to better reflect the costs of rents in the South Hams.
- 10 Promote the development of an exemplar site of low carbon modular housing such as ZEDpods, to show that developments like this can be both stylish and great to live in. They can offer many advantages over traditional build and could help, amongst other things, to alleviate the shortage of one bedroomed accommodation in the District.
- 11 To actively seek opportunities to invest in Council owned social housing with high sustainability specification, to support those on a low income who are unable to afford 'affordable' rental housing; and
- 12 To lobby Government to allow local councils to be able to charge up to 200% Council Tax on second / holiday homes as they do in Wales.

Covid Enhanced Response Area

In response to high COVID rates, South West local authorities, including the South Hams, have been added to a list of areas receiving an enhanced response package.

Being designated as an enhanced response area will help with support measures for education settings and increased national communications support, clearly outlining the continued risks of COVID-19 and the need to take personal action, such as the wearing of face masks and social distancing. Additionally, prioritised access to Wastewater testing, sequencing, national contact tracing capacity and national support with messaging will also be supported.

The District Council will continue to be required to support this public health advice from Central Govt through its communications with residents and businesses. We have not been asked to carry out any additional tasks at this time.

Afghan refugees

South Hams District Council is appealing to landlords to come forward now to help meet the acute need for homes for fleeing Afghan workers and local families. The unprecedented pressure on local housing has been well documented this summer. There is now a pressing need to find accommodation for people fleeing from Afghanistan as well as rising demands for housing for local people who have been asked to leave their homes through no fault of their own.

Cllr Hilary Bastone, South Hams District Council's Deputy Leader explains:

“As a community, we want to do whatever we can to support the government and County Council in finding accommodation for formerly employed Afghan workers and their families. The lack of affordable private rented accommodation in the area also continues to mean many families face long periods of time in temporary housing situations whilst we struggle to secure them long-term homes. The problem is that we simply don't have enough properties to meet our local needs. That's why we are asking landlords in our local communities to come forward now and help us offer a solution.

“Under the Afghan resettlement scheme, we are looking to source a private-rental sector property to offer to an eligible family. The County Council will commission support to assist the family to integrate and settle into the area. Our understanding is that the scheme will be similar to the Syrian Resettlement scheme, which South Hams District Council already supports.

“We also continue to reach out to landlords to sign up to our SeaMoor lettings scheme, which offers a full property management service. We are hopeful that the community of South Hams will show their generosity and that we will receive offers of accommodation to help those relocating from Afghanistan and those local families who are also in need of homes.”

Due to the importance of access to support, there are restrictions on where Afghan families can be rehoused. As a result, the Council is specifically looking for family-sized properties in Totnes to support a family fleeing from Afghanistan.

However, many local families are also desperately seeking homes where they can settle and bring up their children. If anyone has a property anywhere in the District that is available to rent please email seamoor.lettings@swdevon.gov.uk to find out more about the landlord support available.

Find out more about the options and support for landlords provided by SeaMoor Lettings:

www.southhams.gov.uk/SeaMoorLettings

eCargo Bike Grant

Earlier this week, SHDC contacted businesses across the South Hams and reached out to Parish Councils to share details of the Government's eCargo Bike Grant.

£400,000 has been made available by the Department for Transport in 2021/22 for the purchase of eCargo bikes, to support businesses switching to a sustainable transport solution.

- Funding covers up to 40% of the total cost of an eCargo bike, up to a maximum of £2,500 for two-wheel models and £4,500 for three-wheel models.
- You can apply for up to five eCargo bikes per organisation.
- Limited companies, sole traders, partnerships, charities and not-for-profit organisations are all eligible to apply. Public, community or third sector organisations are also eligible provided they are legally constituted and have the appropriate formal structure.

The deadline for applications is 14 December 2021. Please direct your local businesses to find more information about the scheme [here](#).

County Councillor's Report, October 2021

Covid-19

Key message

- Frontline Health and Social Care workers can now book a booster appointment via the National Booking Service or by contacting 119, provided that 6 months have passed since the date of their second vaccination. Details of walk-in clinics are available later in this bulletin.
- The Shingrix shingles vaccine, which has sometimes been opportunistically offered alongside flu, cannot be co-administered with COVID-19.
- Vaccinations have begun in schools for 12–15-year-olds. Parents, guardians or carers of children in this group are being contacted for consent.
- Support is available for NHS staff experiencing Long Covid
- 6 in 10 18–24-year-olds are fully vaccinated.
- Between 8 December and 26 September **933,727** first doses have been given while **867,880** second doses have been given; a total of **1,801,607** doses.
- Details of walk-in clinics are being regularly shared on NHS Devon CCG's social media pages. You can find your nearest walk-in clinic on NHS England's site finder [here](#).

Age group	Number of 1st doses given	Number of 2nd doses given	Approx % of age group received at least one dose*	Approx % of age group received both doses
80+	76,097	74,652	95% or above for people aged 50 and over	90% or above for people aged 50 and over
75-79	58,316	57,874		
70-74	77,439	76,759		
65-69	72,143	71,243		
60-64	79,228	76,739		
55-59	85,816	83,787		
50-54	81,042	79,027		
45-49	66,753	64,243	93.1%	89.6%
40-44	59,744	56,684	95.2%	90.3%
35-39	60,361	55,667	91.4%	84.3%
30-34	60,119	53,340	88.4%	78.4%
25-29	55,202	46,822	81.5%	69.1%
18-24	81,477	66,567	81.2%	66.3%
All under 18	19,989	4,476	8.8%	2.0%
Total (% 16+)	933,727	867,880	92.7%	86.2%

Arrangements for GCSE, AS and A levels in summer 2022

For the past two years, summer exams haven't been able to take place due to the coronavirus pandemic, and instead students have been awarded grades by their teachers.

Now exam regulator Ofqual has put in place arrangements for GCSE, AS and A levels in summer 2022 to support students and make exams fairer for them because they've had their education disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The government has introduced a choice of topics or content in some GCSE exams and exam boards will give advance information about the focus of the content of exams, designed to provide guidance for revision for students ahead of summer exams, and study aids will be allowed in some exams.

You can find out more about Ofqual's approach to grading exams and assessments in autumn 2021 and summer 2022 on the government website.

Funding available for organisations to support self-isolating residents

We've launched a new fund to help community organisations provide practical, social and emotional support to Devon residents self-isolating due to COVID-19.

The grants of up to £5,000 for small projects and £20,000 for larger projects can be used to help those self-isolating with any caring responsibilities; accessing food and other supplies; practical tasks such as dog walking; and mental health and wellbeing support to address things like loneliness and boredom.

Groups can also use the money to improve their community's awareness and understanding of the government's self-isolation rules, including when you need to self-isolate, how long for, what it involves and why it is a vitally important part of slowing the spread of COVID-19, as well as what support is available.

For more information about the 'COVID-19 Outbreak Management Grant', including how to apply, please visit our website.